

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in opposition to this bill and the precedent it will set for public lands, especially in the great State of Montana, where we do treasure them. In our State, we take a balanced use approach, where conservation and public access go hand in hand. It is a good approach, and it is used in other States as well.

This bill would replace that conversation with a mandate coming out of Washington that will unilaterally lock up an area nearly the size of Cascade County, Montana. This bill would completely eliminate recreation, resource development, and responsible forest management on 1.5 million acres for an indefinite period of time. A bottom-up, balanced approach almost always works better than a top-down, command-and-control method that the majority is trying to impose on us here.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. NEGUSE. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 803.

This bill, while well intentioned, will unfortunately result in over a million acres being subjected to less efficient forestry management services and less fuel reduction. I represent the State of California, which, last year, experienced the worst fire season in recorded State history. Over 4 million acres of State land was burned last year.

The year before that, we had the destructive and catastrophic Camp Fire that totally destroyed the town of Paradise, almost 100 lives lost, almost 20,000 structures destroyed. I had the unfortunate experience of walking through that town and witnessing that devastation, and it was catastrophic.

To my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I have read the "Wilderness Management Manual," and I direct their attention to the BLM manual for the management of wilderness areas that says that "fuels reduction is only allowed in very rare circumstances."

This will result in more fire damage throughout the Western United States. Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, if we adopt the motion to recommit, we will instruct the Committee on Natural Resources to consider our cancel the Biden ban amendment to H.R. 803.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of the amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. The amendment is simple. It will nullify Executive Order No. 14008 and Secretarial Order No. 3395 issued during the President's first weeks in office.

The Biden administration wasted no time in imposing their extremist environmental agenda. On day one, political appointees created a nightmare for our energy operators and a never-ending bottleneck for approvals necessary to keep our energy economy running.

Just a few days later, President Biden halted all new energy production on our Federal lands and waters, jeopardizing the livelihoods of thousands of Americans in the middle of a pandemic and economic crisis.

The administration has tried to downplay the impact of these actions, but we are already feeling the consequences of what I like to call the Biden ban. The economic impact of the decisions will be far-reaching, impacting thousands of companies, many of which are small businesses. Recent studies have concluded that a long-term ban on onshore leasing would cost 72,000 jobs annually, and a long-term ban on offshore drilling would cost 145,000 jobs.

Federal energy development represents a sizable portion of State budgets. Can we afford to cut off this crucial source of revenue as our communities are struggling to recover from the pandemic? Our schools need funding to buy PPE that they need to reopen. Yet, the Biden ban would disrupt a critical source of revenue that our K-12 schools rely on.

In addition, these actions will bankrupt programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

The ramifications of these actions by the Biden administration will be devastating to our rural communities. Americans who work hard every day to keep the lights on and our gas prices low deserve better than a pink slip from out-of-touch political appointees.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, recommit H.R. 803 to the Natural Resources Committee, and put Americans back to work.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, today we heard concerns from our Members, including Members most affected by this legislation.

Tomorrow, we will debate amendments that include 15 new unrelated matters to make the total amount of bills in this one bill 23. This will make this bill three times worse after we consider amendments.

I believe we have the responsibility to leave our environment better than we found it. We talk about the economy so often that many people think that we forget about the environment.

That couldn't be further from the truth, we all breathe the air and drink the water.

H.R. 803 would attempt to preserve our resources, locking them up and throwing away the key. Congress' focus should be on conservation and conserving these resources instead, using them in sustainable, responsible ways that every American can enjoy.

Since we weren't given any opportunity to debate this bill in committee, I would like to remind my colleagues that this bill will harm the environment; it will kill jobs; it will limit access to outdoor recreation; it will hurt State water rights; it will imperil our national security and American energy independence; it will impede necessary forest management; and make us more reliant on hostile foreign nations.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to say thank you again to Chairman GRIJALVA, and to each of my colleagues, Representative DEGETTE, Representative SCHIFF, Representative HUFFMAN, and all of my fellow Members who we heard from today who worked so hard on this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I have to repeat this because it is important. Every title of this bill was heard in the 116th Congress, I was at those hearings. Every title was marked up. I attended those mark-ups with the ranking member. Every single title of this bill passed in committee, passed on the floor twice, many of them in bipartisan fashion.

I agree with the ranking member. At the end of the day we have an obligation to leave our environment better than when we found it. That is what this bill is all about. Protecting the most iconic and beautiful places in the United States of America so that my children, your children, Mr. Speaker, and the ranking member's children can continue to enjoy these incredible places in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that my colleagues will vote "yes" on this important legislation and join us in this effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 803 is postponed.

#### SLOWDOWNS IN THE U.S. MAIL

(Mr. CASTEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, for months I had calls coming into my office about delays in the U.S. mail. Some of these delays had to do with cold weather, some are because of COVID, but most are the direct result

of the failures and slowdowns deliberately imposed by Postmaster DeJoy. His efforts to eliminate overtime, close mail processing facilities, and remove mail sorting machines have taken all of the cushion out of the system.

Our postal workers are demoralized, they are seeing mail pile up as they are blamed for the delays. Seniors have gone for days waiting for medications. Constituents and local mayors are sounding the alarm.

The truth is that our Postal Service has survived this assault from its own leadership, only because those letter carriers and mail handlers have doubled down in spite of the challenges through rain, through sleet, and snow. And, yet, DeJoy has failed them. He has failed the American people.

He has not failed by accident. He has a mission to weaken and ultimately privatize the post office to make people who depend on the Postal Service angry enough to finish the destruction that he has started. He hasn't succeeded yet. But every day he stays in office is another day closer to him realizing that goal. The Postal Service needs a leader who is committed to public service. DeJoy must go.

#### CELEBRATING VERLINN SANDRA AVERY

(Mr. CLOUD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a pillar of the Victoria, Texas, community, Mrs. Verlinn Sandra Avery, who passed away on January 30, 2021.

Resilient and devoted to caring for others, Mrs. Avery demonstrated her passion for serving her community through her work as a child nutrition specialist for Victoria ISD, and her leadership of Victoria's Old Landmark Committee, which she founded.

She organized Juneteenth celebrations, multicultural "Taste of Soul" events, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day festivities, and much more.

The impact she had on her community is evident in the Victoria newspapers, which were often filled with coverage of her events and letters to the editor thanking her for her service to the community, and now includes tributes to her memory.

Mrs. Avery is sorely missed and will be rightfully remembered as a community leader for generations to come.

#### HELPING LAS VEGAS THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

(Mrs. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my hometown, Las Vegas.

What comes to mind when I say Las Vegas? Bright lights, slot machines,

big shows, massive conventions, showgirls with the big iconic feather headpieces. It is a magical place.

But the glitz and glamour doesn't happen on its own. Even though it feels that way, it is not magic.

It is the result of the work of thousands of Nevadans working in the entertainment, tourism, and hospitality industry. I am talking about the Vegas performers, ticket takers, stage managers, convention workers, and bartenders. To them, Vegas isn't a weekend getaway or a drunken cliché, it is their livelihood, which sadly has been gutted by the COVID pandemic.

Many of them don't have jobs to go back to because the industry can't thrive when people aren't traveling. They are stuck until the pandemic is over. And because of that we need to help get them through this moment.

The American Rescue Plan includes hundreds of billions of dollars for small businesses, laid off workers, and direct aid to families and communities like those in Las Vegas, including the \$23 billion to support the travel and tourism industry, and the \$1.25 billion in targeted relief for live venues.

We need to support the venues and the workers that make our magical town the number one destination in the country, and we can do that by passing the American Rescue Plan.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to observe the decorum of the House.

#### PROTECTING PUBLIC LANDS

(Mr. PALMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to comment on H.R. 803, specifically, the debate I just heard.

This bill does not protect public lands, it turns them into economic deserts off limits to public use and sensible management practices. At some point we must recognize the damage that is done by these left-wing land grabs, to our economy, our communities, and even to our national security when we make critical resources off limits.

My Democratic colleagues are advocating land use and management policies that are entirely misguided. As I listen to my Democratic colleagues' speeches, I heard an almost religious devotion to the sites covered by this legislation.

When I heard one Member talk about protecting the Grand Canyon from mining, even though mining is already prohibited there, I couldn't help wondering what my colleagues would think if it turned out the Grand Canyon was the result of an ancient mining company. It would probably be fine if it fit their agenda.

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of Jan-

uary 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), who, like me, served as a staffer for a Texas Senator in his career, the great John Tower.

#### CELEBRATING THE MEMORY OF DAISY BATES

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise in celebration of Black History Month. I rise in honor of the memory of Daisy Bates, a native Arkansan and civil rights hero.

Daisy Bates was born in south Arkansas in 1914 and moved to Little Rock in 1942. Active in the NAACP, Daisy and her husband, L.C., started the Arkansas State Press, a weekly newspaper, which they used to call attention to racial injustices.

In the face of violent threats, Mrs. Bates courageously led the movement to desegregate Little Rock Central High School, recruiting and mentoring the Little Rock Nine.

Daisy Gatson Bates became an icon in the fight to end segregation in the Jim Crow South. She was the only woman to speak at the 1963 March on Washington, led by Dr. Martin Luther King.

Daisy Bates is a hero to Arkansans and Americans, and I am proud to honor her legacy today, and I look forward to her statue joining the pantheon of American leaders highlighted in the U.S. Capitol.

#### NATO STATES ARE NOT PAYING THEIR FAIR SHARE

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, on a cold Tuesday in January, an irritated President met with his National Security Council. During the meeting, the President was outspoken, and complained, We cannot continue to pay for the military protection of Europe while the NATO states are not paying their fair share and living off the fat of the land. We have been very generous to Europe, and now it is time for us to look out for ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, that quote urging Europeans to pay their fair share in their own defense by way of their responsibility to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization was not made by President Trump, it was not made by President Obama, or even George W. Bush. Mr. Speaker, that irritated President was John F. Kennedy.

We are now nearly 60 years after that meeting, and 30 years following the reunification of Germany and the collapse of the USSR. Yet, the debate continues.